

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY SENDS STATE TEAMS TO ASSESS FLOOD DAMAGE ***Warns Residents That Rain From Remnants Of Tropical Storm Fay May Cause More Flooding***

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today directed North Carolina damage assessment teams to areas flooded by the remnants of Tropical Storm Fay and reminded residents to be cautious of flash flooding as rain and runoff continues to fill rivers and streams throughout the state. Significant flooding occurred overnight and earlier today in some parts of the mountains and western Piedmont. The state teams will assess damage in Cabarrus and Mecklenburg counties.

“Even though most of the rain is past, there is still a chance of flash flooding in low lying areas near rivers and creeks, so people need to be aware of their surroundings and heed the warnings of local emergency officials,” said Easley. “Never drive on flooded roads or allow children to play in flood waters. Just a few inches of water can sweep a person off their feet and it takes less than a foot of water to float a car.”

Easley also advised that storm systems such as this can frequently spawn tornadoes. The National Weather Service has issued several tornado watches and warnings for parts of the state throughout the day. Residents should monitor radio and television tonight and following instructions to seek a safe location if a tornado warning is issued for their community.

The state Division of Emergency Management has been monitoring Fay since the storm formed nearly two weeks ago. County emergency officials have reported more than a dozen swiftwater rescues, flooded roads and scattered power outages, as well as a few structures in the mountains that were damaged by mudslides.

The state Department of Transportation has had crews working in the western half of the state since Tuesday clearing rock and mudslides to keep highways open. State highway officials report several roads under water in Rowan County. Both the northbound and southbound off ramps of Interstate 85 onto U.S. 52 in Salisbury were closed today due to flooding.

Mecklenburg County opened a shelter at East Mecklenburg High School for evacuees from the Doral-Cavalier apartments in Charlotte. Cabarrus County has opened several shelters in Concord, Kannapolis and Harrisburg for evacuees from two skilled care facilities and isolated neighborhoods where flooding occurred.